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General Seward’s Battles and Antics

William H. Seward, a name intertwined with the fabric of American history, was not a general who battled in fields of war but rather in the arenas of politics and diplomacy. His battles were not fought with swords and rifles, but with words and wit, as he navigated the treacherous waters of 19th-century American politics. As Secretary of State under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, he was a key figure in the purchase of Alaska, dubbed "Seward's Folly" by those who doubted the wisdom of this acquisition. His son, William H. Seward Jr., however, did don the uniform of a brigadier general for the Union Army during the tumultuous years of the Civil War. The elder Seward's antics, if one could call them that, included surviving an assassination attempt on the same night as Lincoln's fatal visit to Ford's Theatre, a testament to the perilous times in which he served. His life was a tapestry of service, marked by eloquence, intelligence, and a dash of the dramatic, forever etched into the annals of American history.